

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, HU

SUBJECT: HUNGARIAN-U.S. ECONOMIC COUNCIL

REF: BUDAPEST 3403

1. DURING HIS OCTOBER VISIT TO BUDAPEST, SECRETARY MORTON AGREED TO LOOK INTO CHAMBER PRESIDENT KALLOS' CONCERNS ABOUT HUNGARIAN-U.S. ECONOMIC COUNCIL. ON OCTOBER 31, MORTON SENT THE FOLLOWING LETTER TO RICHARD L. LESHER, PRESIDENT, CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE U.S.:

QUOTE

DEAR MR. LESHER:

DURING MY RECENT VISIT TO BUDAPEST, I HAD THE OCCASION TO HAVE A LENGTHY DISCUSSION WITH ODON KALLOS, PRESIDENT OF THE HUNGARIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

IN OUR CONVERSATION, MR. KALLOS INDICATED SOME CONCERN WITH
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THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE HUNGARIAN-U.S. ECONOMIC COUNCIL TO

THIS POINT. HE MENTIONED THAT SOME LARGE U.S. COMPANIES SUCH AS SINGER, DOW CHEMICAL AND UNION CARBIDE, WHICH HAVE ALREADY DONE SUBSTANTIAL BUSINESS WITH HUNGARY ARE NOT

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL. HE ALSO EXPRESSED SOME MISGIVINGS ABOUT THE LEVEL OF U.S. COMPANY PARTICIPATION IN THE ECONOMIC COUNCIL. MR. KALLOS IS UNDOUBTEDLY WELL AWARE OF THE COMPOSITION OF JOINT COUNCILS WITH OTHER EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AND MAY BE CONCERNED THAT THE HUNGARIAN-U.S. COUNCIL NOT APPEAR TO BE INFERIOR IN STATURE.

ALTHOUGH THE CONCERNS OF MR. KALLOS ARE MATTERS SOLELY FOR YOUR CHAMBER TO WORK OUT WITH THE HUNGARIAN CHAMBER, I WANTED TO BRING THEM TO YOUR ATTENTION BEFORE THE COUNCIL'S FIRST MEETING ON NOVEMBER 10-11 IN BUDAPEST. WE VIEW THIS MEETING AS ANOTHER IMPORTANT STEP IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF U.S.-HUNGARIAN COMMERCIAL RELATIONS, AND I WISH YOU MUCH SUCCESS.

THE ECONOMIC COUNCILS THAT THE CHAMBER HAS ESTABLISHED WITH ITS COUNTERPART ORGANIZATIONS IN ROMANIA, POLAND, BULGARIA AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA ARE PROVING TO BE EFFECTIVE ORGANIZATIONS IN FACILITATING THE EXPANSION OF EAST-WEST TRADE. I KNOW THAT WE ALL SHARE THE SAME OBJECTIVE, TO MAKE THE U.S.-HUNGARIAN COUNCIL AN EQUALLY FRUITFUL AND EFFECTIVE ORGANIZATION.

END OF QUOTE

2. EMBASSY MAY WISH TO TELL KALLOS OF SECRETARY'S ACTION AND AT ITS DISCRETION CONVEY TO HIM SUBSTANCE OF LETTER. KISSINGER

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